Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The beneficiaries received assistance for various components like certified seed processing plants, seed storage, strengthening of breeder seed production units. Seed Certification Agencies and Seed Testing Laboratories, etc.

Cotton Yield

4253. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average yield of cotton achieved under field conditions in India are among the lowest in the world;

(b) what are the reasons for such low yields of cotton;

(c) the State-wise average cotton yields, including Andhra Pradesh, and

(d) the steps proposed to increase cotton yield per acre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Low yield of cotton in India is mainly attributed to agro-economic and agro-climatic conditions under which it is cultivated.

(c) State-wise average yield per hectare of cotton during 1993-94 is annexed as statement *(See* below).

(d) To increase the productivity and production of cotton, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme in important cotton growing States. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided on distribution of quality seeds, sprinkler sets for irrigation and plant protection equipments. Financial assistance is also provided for organising demonstration of improved technology, integrated pest management and training of farmers.

Statement

Stale-wise average yield (per hectare in Kg.) of Major Cotton Producing States — 1993-94

State	1993-
Andhra Pradesh	357
Gujarat	278
Haryana	399
Karnataka	274
Madhya Pradesh	147
Maharashtra	172
Punjab	452
Rajasthan	275
Tamil Nadu	282
All India	264

Provision of Additional Funds for NCDC

4254. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: DR.SHRIKANTRAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what decision Government have taken on the Maharashtra Government's request for providing additional funds to the National Cooperative Development Corporation so as to enable it to provide assistance to the sugar factories',

(b) what are the details thereof; and

(c) if decision has not been taken, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra had sent a request in March, 1994 to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for release of Rs. 87.84 crore for setting up of 19 new Cooperative Sugar Factories. Assistance under this scheme is sanctioned by N.C.D.C. only after the term loans are sanctioned by the Central Financial Institutions after the appraisal of these projects. The N.C.D.C. has so far received sanction letters in respect of 16 projects from the Central Financial Institutions and the Board of Management of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has approved investment loan assistance in respect of 5 new co-operative sugar factories for